

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 /017 W

-----060835Z 080125 /14

P R 051425Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2675

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NAVAL VISIT TO BULGARIA

REF: A) MOSHER OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER OF MARCH 18 (NOTAL);

B) CNO 181539Z; C) MOSCOW 1316

1. REF A STATES NAVY INTERESTED IN ADDING VISIT TO A BULGARIAN PORT (AND A ROMANIAN PORT) TO ITS BLACK SEA PROGRAM AND ASKS EMBASSY VIEWS. CNO MESSAGE, REF B, STATED NAVY INTENDED EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF VISITS TO VARNA OR BURGAS, AND REF C PROVIDED EMBASSY MOSCOW'S THINKING ON QUESTION OF WHETHER VISITS SHOULD BE MADE TO LENINGRAD OR ODESSA.

2. SINCE REFS B & C WERE HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND EMBASSY WAS INFO ADDRESSEE ONLY, WE HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION AT ALL TO SOUND OUT GOB. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO APPROACH GOB, SHOULD DEPT WISH US TO DO SO, BUT WOULD NEED TO KNOW PLANNED DATE OF VISIT(S), NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF SHIPS INVOLVED, ROUTE SHIPS WILL TAKE AND OTHER PORTS TO BE VISITED TOGETHER WITH DATES THEREFOR, APPROXIMATE SIZE OF SHORE LEAVE PARTY, ETC. GOB INEVITABLY WILL WISH THIS KIND OF DATA BEFORE AGREEING TO VISIT.

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3. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION AT ALL TO REQUESTING VISIT AND WOULD SEE SUCH A VISIT AS FULLY IN KEEPING WITH POLICY, AS STATED IN OUR PARM SUBMISSION, THAT WE TREAT BULGARIA AS INDEPENDENT AND IN SOLE CHARGE OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY. WE MUST EXPECT, HOWEVER, QUESTION OF VISIT TO BE FULLY DISCUSSED WITH USSR BEFORE GOB RENDERS ITS DECISION. FOR

THIS REASON AND BECAUSE OF GENERAL SLOWNESS OF GOB RESPONSE
ON SUCH MATTERS, WE SUGGEST THAT WE BE GIVEN AS LONG A
LEADTIME AS POSSIBLE FOR VISIT.
HERZ

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Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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